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SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 1909.

Auditorium Project Starts Well.

The movement to erect in Washington a
great auditorium to meet the needs of
this nation's city has started auspiciously.
It must not fail. In our opinion, it will
not fail. The city cannot afford to let it
fail.

Secretary of State Root rendered a real
service to Washington in so clearly pre-
sents the urgent necessity of such a
structure. He rendered a still greater
service in emphasizing the country's in-
terest in it. Washington's interest and
the government's interest are inseparable
in this case. And there is no doubt,
as Mr. Root said, that Congress will do
its part, once Washington has done its
part. It is incumbent upon Washington,
therefore, to do its part without delay.

All honor to the public-spirited citizens
who have so substantially given support
to the project! The example set by gen-
eral, broad-gauged men who listened to
Mr. Root's speech in subscribing nearly
\$100,000 before leaving the meeting is
worth much to the city. It furnishes
convincing proof to Congress that the
District is in earnest; that the project is
surely destined to materialize.

Now let all citizens co-operate actively
and generously, according to their means,
and we shall have the auditorium.

That Texas fine assessed against the
Standard Oil, though indirect, seems to
call for real money, all right.

West Point Discourse Possible.

Senator Dick, of Ohio, has introduced a
resolution, referred to the Senate Military
Committee, which, if adopted, will
divulge some information worth reading,
from all accounts. The War Department
is called upon to produce copies of all re-
ports, recommendations, and correspond-
ence relating in any way to hazing which
has occurred at the United States Military
Academy since January 1, 1908, to-
gether with all the official documents
bearing upon the action of the academy
board in the cases of those cadets at
West Point who, for any reason, failed
to meet all the requirements and were
considered as having failed in the semi-
annual examination.

While the correspondence concerning
hazing may possess a transient interest,
it may well be imagined that the exhibi-
tion of reports and letters concerning the
deficient cadets will be truly illuminating.
Some weeks ago the academy board at
the Military Academy recommended the
discharge of several cadets, two of whom,
members of the first class with only six
months to serve before graduation and
appointment as second lieutenants, had
sufficiently misconducted themselves as
to warrant this termination of their military
career. In practically all of these cases
the cadets have been restored to the
Military Academy with more or less loss
of time by way of punishment, and this
could have been accomplished only by a
revision of the recommendations from the
academy board. The law permits no re-
jection of the recommendations of that
board, and it would be very interesting
at this time to know by what method
the academy board at West Point changed
its judgment. The board must have been
radically wrong in its original
conclusions and narrowly escaped doing
grave injustice to the cadets most vi-
tally concerned, or the board has
flagrantly disregarded discipline and re-
stored to the cadet corps some young
men who are not entitled to this favor.
In either event it would be well for Congress
to know the state of affairs.

Is California seeking to pave the way
for a few more Hobson war scares?

Taft in Dixie.

A Detroit gentleman thinks Mr. Taft
is trying "to soft soap the South," and
felicitates himself uncritically that the big
Ohioan cannot do it.

It may be true, though we entertain no
such idea ourselves, that the President-
elect is trying to "soft soap" whatever,
exactly, that is—the South, but we do not
believe the South thinks it, and we do not
believe the South is easy to fool in re-
spect of that. On the contrary, we have
been especially impressed with the dig-
nified but hearty and whole-souled way
in which Mr. Taft has met the Southern
people on their native heath—and we miss
our guess if he has not won their affection
and high regard in very generous meas-
ure. He has not "stopped over" one time,
and he has not been flattered to the limit
or fawned upon by the people among
whom he has been visiting of late.

He has said to them, frankly, that he
would like to have them give his political
ideas a fair consideration, and he thinks a
little up-to-date Republicanism would not
do them any harm. We suspect he has
convinced a good many of them that he
speaks the truth in that regard, too. But
he has not rubbed it in; and he does not
seem disposed to in the slightest degree.
He assures the people of Dixie that Federal
patronage shall be dispensed down that
way in the future with very careful
thought of the people and their feelings.
He knows that the South has resented,
somewhat bitterly, some acts of the past

in the matter of distributing the offices,
and he righteously determines to pursue
another course, so far as his administra-
tion is concerned.

Mr. Taft has had a great time in the
South—a most enjoyable time. He has
learned much, we think—and he has set
the South thinking in a way that will
bring happy results. Indeed, we feel
that his visit to Georgia will stand out
more vividly as the days go by as one
of the real, epoch-marking events of his
life.

Strangers in Washington are hereby in-
formed, nevertheless, that the present
slushy condition of our streets is not a
marker to what it has been at other
times and may be again.

Not a Privilege, but a Right.

"Public intervention in the affairs of a public
service corporation is neither to be resented as
usurpation nor permitted as a privilege by the cor-
poration, but on the contrary to be accepted as a
duty and exercised as a right by the government in
the interest of all the people."—Theodore Roosevelt,
in his message on conservation of natural resources.

Heartily approved, and respectfully re-
ferred to Senator Long and other mem-
bers of the subcommittee on public
utilities of the Senate District Committee
for guidance and inspiration in connection
with the bills for the regulation of
the gas monopoly now before that com-
mittee.

The people of the District expect that
the duty to which Mr. Roosevelt refers
shall not be shirked and that the right
shall be exercised in the interest of all.
It is a right that has been held too
long in abeyance.

And they say it was Mr. Willett's
"maiden effort," too! My, but it was
rude!

The Inaugural Reception.

Some criticism has been indulged in by
Congress over the social functions which
have been invariably tendered the Presi-
dent and Vice President upon their in-
duction into office. It is urged in some quar-
ters that the use of a public building for
such purpose should be condemned. Yet the
Patent Office building, the Treasury
building, the National Museum, and later,
the Pension building have all been so
used in the past forty years. Why should
objection now be raised unless all preced-
ent in this regard is to be ignored? The
President when in office tenders to Con-
gress, the judiciary, the army and navy,
and the diplomatic representatives of
other nations in each season state recep-
tions and dinners. No one objects to this
being invited to enjoy the President's
hospitality. Why, then, when he enters
upon his high office is it not the courteous
and gracious thing to tender him a recep-
tion from the people over whom he is
called to preside as Chief Magistrate?

Why should time-honored custom in this
regard be cast aside without suggestion
that the President in turn be relieved
from the duty and expense of acting as
host at the numerous entertainments
which custom has imposed upon him? And
why should objection be made against
providing the only present avail-
able building adapted in size and arrange-
ment to such a function?

The many thousand visitors who throng
our city at the inaugural time expect
some attention. Our citizens always seek
to give it. Fireworks and illuminations
are provided for the entertainment of all.
The inaugural reception and the succeed-
ing band concerts provide enjoyment for
all our visitors, and it is not believed that
we have yet become so commercial in
spirit as to desire our incoming President
and Vice President to be thus slighted by
the omission of the social side of the in-
auguration. Much labor is entailed upon
our citizens to thus fill out the time-hon-
ored programme, but it is rendered with
great good feeling and interest only in
the spirit of true American greeting to
our incoming Chief Magistrate and genu-
ine hospitality to our countrymen who
come to acclaim his induction into his
great office.

"The baseball season is almost here,"
says the Columbia State. That reminds
us: Washington is going to have a pen-
ant-winning team next season.

Mr. Root's Election to the Senate.

Notwithstanding constitutional provi-
sions, there are a good many ways of
electing a United States Senator, or,
rather, of compelling the legislature of a
State to elect some particular man as
Senator. Oregon, as we have seen, has
an effective way of imposing the popular
will on the legislature. At the other
extreme is the election of Mr. Root as
Senator from New York. It would be
somewhat puzzling to say just how Mr.
Root's election came about. It was set-
tled weeks before the legislature met by
a somewhat unusual combination of
forces. The party bosses consented to
the election, yielding to irresistible pres-
sure from without. Administration influ-
ence is believed to have given weight to
this pressure, while a large body of gen-
uine public sentiment added to it. The
general sense of Mr. Root's fitness for
the honor completed the considerations
that determined the legislature's action
in advance. When that body met it was
to register an intangible decree, just as
binding as the pledges of the Oregon
legislators. But now they are wondering
in New York, since Gov. Hughes has
committed himself to the primary system
of nominations, whether Mr. Root would
have stood any chance at a popular pri-
mary. An interesting sidelight on this
question is thrown by Mr. Root's reply
to an inquiry addressed him by a New
York agricultural paper, asking him to
tell where he stood on several matters in
which farmers are interested. The Sec-
retary of State rejoined:

"I do not want to go into a kind of civil service
examination regarding my fitness for the Senate.
It would be hard to put a limit on that sort of
process if it were once begun, and if carried very
far, it would result in what I think would be the
wrong way to select a Senator. It seems to me that
the way to do that is to select a man who is so
well known to the people of the State that they
can have confidence in his good sense to find out
what their interests are and his loyalty to promote
them. When men get to answering questions put
to them for the purpose of determining whether
the people shall favor them for office, the tem-
ptation is very strong to make the sort of answer
that the people are supposed to want, and I do
not think it is at all certain that the best and
the most honest men would come out at the top of
such an examination."

That is rather old-fashioned doctrine,
and, naturally, it was disagreed with by
the editor who made the inquiry, who
thinks the people have a right to huckle

even a candidate for United States Sen-
ator. Mr. Root's attitude would not win
him many votes at a primary, for in a
popular election the voters usually want
to know just what a candidate stands
for, although they may sometimes have
confidence enough in a man to trust to
his judgment and loyalty. Yet the ten-
dency is to try to pin every candidate
down to some sort of a platform, and
this results, as Mr. Root says, in a
platform that may be incompatible with
honesty and candor. Mr. Root's election
has come about in a way that leaves him
absolutely free to pursue his own course
and to give the people of New York and
the country the benefit of a judgment un-
trammelled by any pledges to bosses, to
the legislature, or to the people. It was
a most unusual Senatorial election for
these days.

Mr. Taft insists that he "really does
like 'possum'—thinks it a fine and tasty
'potpourri' dish." On the quiet—strictly—
this will make numerous Georgians wonder
if Mr. Taft's winning smile does not
actually run largely to subtle flattery, on
occasions.

"Yes, Poe drank," says the Richmond
Times-Dispatch. But, as some one said
of Homer's nodding, that was not what
made him Poe.

To the Paragraphers' Union: George
Marcellus Bailey and his wonderful and
highly ornamental alligator vest will be
on exhibit around and about Wonderful
Washington for three days only—three.
Count 'em!

"Mr. Elihu Root was elected Senator,
but with very little enthusiasm," says a
New York contemporary. Doubtless
those New Yorkers even yet fear it is too
good to be true.

Tennessee now thinks it is fairly well
qualified for the dry-as-a-powder-horn
class.

It would be a genuine pleasure to ac-
cept Mr. Arthur Capner's kind invita-
tion to attend the "house warming"
of the new home of the Topeka Daily Capital
on the evening of February 2. The
capital is one of the good newspapers of
the country, and its beautiful building
is entirely worthy of it.

"The more talk of culture there is
around a man's house, the fewer good
things he has to eat," says the Mil-
waukee Sentinel. That is true, we think;
and largely because the cultured man's
mind doesn't run so much to something
to eat.

The President-elect may reflect also
that there never was a "possum crop
shortage, and probably never will be.

Mr. Bryan to be Senator? We hope so.
Brother Kern, however, would doubtless
advise the Nebraska to assume a very
im-from-Missouri attitude in the mean-
time.

The Senate has been a fine ad for Ore-
gon land, if Oregon land has not been a
fine ad for the Senate.

Gov. Patterson's veto appears to have
been no more fragile than the average
New Year's resolution, at all events.

Mr. Lilley, however, also has his opin-
ion of his erstwhile colleagues, collec-
tively considered.

The inclination of the country not to
applaud Mr. Willett's speech seems to be
unanimous.

A Kentucky feudist has been sen-
tenced to the penitentiary for life for
killing a man. It is apparent enough that
those feudists have been making the mis-
take of their lives in not pulling off their
killings in New York.

Moreover, the President doubtless would
not hesitate to swim the Potomac a
half dozen times or so, if there are any
doubting Thomases among the naval
officers in respect of that.

A New Jersey hen lays eggs in an
automobile. Speaking of the eternal fit-
ness of things, how's that?

"How will Roosevelt get out of office?"
is still going the rounds of the press.
Why not come to Washington on March
4, and see? We will have the show.

Pictures of Silver.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Why cannot the more valuable wedding
gifts be photographed and then be dis-
played in photographic form? The photo-
graph of a Swiss watch from Uncle Silas,
or a pearl locket from Aunt Hannah, or
a silver salad spoon from the McCorkies,
would do away with a great deal of
anxiety that is felt by the caretakers
during the time that the more valuable
gifts are being inspected by a crowding
and curious mob of guests. The photo-
graph of a certified check from the
bride's godfather would look well, too,
and this is also true of the photograph of
the plat of the valuable vacant lot—a
gift from the bridegroom may decide to
build.

Smelling a Rat.

From the New York Tribune.

Senator Tillman makes a monstrous im-
putation against Federal judges, and then
says: "I simply have the suspicion." In
other words, as deftly phrased by Mr. H.
Biglow:

"I ain't agoin' to try your patience
By tellin' who does this or that;
I don't make no insinuations—
I just let 'em smell a rat."

But who would have thought of South
Carolina's talking a leaf out of a Massa-
chusetts book?

And the Pavements Good.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Even though Cannon and Sherman may
not get carriages at the public expense,
it is consoling to reflect that street car
service in Washington is excellent.

And a Home Run.

From the Ohio State Journal.

Bill Taft makes a hit every time he
comes to the bat in the Southern league.

A Statue.

From the Boston Herald.

In behalf of the continuous recognition
of lotteries in Cuba, Gov. Magoon says
no impetuous Cuban is really happy with-
out a lottery ticket that is destined to
draw one of the big prizes. When the
drawing comes off and his expectations
are not realized the disappointed investor
consoles himself by buying a ticket for
the next one, and so on. Thus is Cuban
happiness perpetuated.

Financial Note.

From the New York Press.

About the only man who could be relied
upon absolutely to pay back borrowed
money would be the one who would never
borrow it.

Not So Frivolous.

From the Chicago News.

We have more respect for women who
want to break into society.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

IN LONDON.

Ladies, form in flying wedges,
Now and then;
Go around demanding pledges
From the men.

But the men are very skittish,
Every chap.
It is hard to get the British
In a trap.

Thus the ladies at persuading
Always fail,
And the end of their crusading
Is in jail.

But at least they are deserving,
Therefore, let's
Give one cheer for the unworried
Suffragettes.

Skating Episode.
"I knew it had to happen."
"What had to happen?"
"A skating couple fell through the ice
forty feet out, but rescued themselves by
crawling ashore on the lady's Merry Wid-
ow hat."

His Idea.
"What's the doctor treating you for?"
"For a swollen fortune," answered the
stingy millionaire, as he uttered a painful
chuckle.

Seems but Yesterday.
"I heard a girl say to-day that the
Tribble craze was before her time. She
was grown, too."
"What's the answer?"
"We are growing old, my boy. We are
growing old."

Often the Case.
I like to think of boyhood days,
And think of how
Much better times in many ways
I'm having now.

A Careful Man.
"Do you keep a second girl?"
"No, my wife isn't strong enough to
wait on more than one."

They Can't Sit.
"Why these upholstered hooks in the
ballroom?"
"For ladies in tube gowns, who do not
care to dance," answered the host.
"Hang your chaperon here."

Why Not?
"I hear your street scene is very real-
istic."
"Say! We have 'em out the side
walls of the theater arranged to have
the trolley company run their regular
cars across our stage."

VETERAN OF THE SENATE.

Approaching Retirement of the Hon.
Henry M. Teller.

From the New York Sun.

With the exception of his nearly three
years of service as Secretary of the
Interior in Mr. Arthur's Cabinet, the
Hon. Henry Moore Teller has been a
Senator since 1878. Apart from his silver
heresy, which he shared with the people
of his State and which he defended with
a knowledge and skill remote from the
vague and sentimental yammering of so
many silver advocates, he has been and
remains substantially a Republican; and
his long experience, his familiarity with
precedents, his clearness of intellect, and
practical grasp of the principles and de-
tails of legislation, especially as it af-
fects the West, have made him one of
the wisest and most valuable of Sena-
tors. He is an elder in that illustrious
body. He sat a generation ago with men
like Elihu Root, Edmunds, Morrill,
Conkling, John Sherman, Allison, In-
galls, Simon Cameron, Bayard. His term
runs from toward the end of Grant's ad-
ministration to the beginning of Taft's.
He has seen many mutations of policy
and fame, sudden heroes, and obscurities
almost as sudden. He is of the class in
which the Senate has never been want-
ing; the men of long heads, of courage,
of thoughtfulness, of training in affairs.

IS OUR NAVY WASTEFUL.

Magazine Writer Thinks It Could
Be Run for Millions Less.

George Kibbe Turner, in McClure's Magazine.

The United States navy will cost us
\$122,000,000 this year—twice what it cost
to run the whole Federal government just
before the civil war. In ten years the
naval appropriation has doubled; in fif-
teen years it has quadrupled. If it keeps
on at this rate for twenty-five years
more, it will cost as much as the Federal
government does now—\$750,000,000 a year.
But the matter to be considered now is
the \$122,000,000, and the fact that a third
of that is wasted. The cry for national
economy is abroad. If Congress so de-
sires, here is a chance to save \$40,000,000.

This cannot be proved by exact figures,
for the statistics of the Navy Depart-
ment books do not furnish the exact
figures that are needed. But it can be
proved just the same. Here are the
figures for running a fighting navy that is
at least twice as strong for actual war-
fare as ours is at the present time. These
figures are liberal; they are taken from
the Navy Department's own estimates;
and they can easily be verified. I will
print them in detail:

ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR A STRONG
FIGHTING NAVY.

For maintenance and repairs.....\$3,000,000

20 Dreadnought battle ships.....\$3,000,000

10 Second-class cruisers.....2,000,000

4 First-class naval yards.....7,500,000

Remaining shore establishments.....15,000,000

Total.....\$20,500,000

Two new Dreadnoughts (complete).....3,000,000

One first-class cruiser and other ships.....2,000,000

Total.....\$25,500,000

This navy, personnel being equal, could
annihilate ours in a couple of hours of
fighting. Making every allowance for the
extraordinary expenses of our navy in
the present year, it can be operated for
\$40,000,000 less annually than ours costs at
the present time. Why? Simply because
the management of the present naval es-
tablishment is not military; it is political.

On a Higher Plane.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

In the announcement of his determina-
tion to give to the people of the South
government officials who shall combine
with capacity personal elements pleasing
to those whom most directly they are to
serve, Mr. Taft has risen above the
plane of the politician and approached
that of the ideal Executive, whose end
for the future of the nation, and the
happiness and well-being of its people,
outweighs selfish ambition.

Happiness in Cuba.

From the Boston Herald.

In behalf of the continuous recognition
of lotteries in Cuba, Gov. Magoon says
no impetuous Cuban is really happy with-
out a lottery ticket that is destined to
draw one of the big prizes. When the
drawing comes off and his expectations
are not realized the disappointed investor
consoles himself by buying a ticket for
the next one, and so on. Thus is Cuban
happiness perpetuated.

Underpaid Judges.

From the New York Tribune.

The Federal judiciary has long been
underpaid. Its just claims should be
recognized in the readjustment of Fed-
eral salaries which is now imminent,
and which is clearly demanded in the
interest of governmental dignity and
efficiency.

Won't Stay White.

From the Detroit Free Press.

San Francisco has had its first snowfall
in ten years, various attempts at white-
washing that city being the nearest ap-
proach to it.

It Suits His Game.

From the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.

It is impossible to avoid the suspicion
that Brother Hobson has something to do
with this anti-Japanese legislation.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

One of the old men in the Senate is
Samuel Douglas McEnery, of Louisiana.
Senator McEnery is one of the few public
men in the legislative halls who attended
the Naval Academy.

His education was varied
and in different institutions—Spring
Hill College, near Mobile, Ala.; United
States Naval Academy, University of
Virginia, State and National Law School,
and Poughkeepsie.

He served in the Confederate army,
reaching the rank of lieutenant.

When forty-two years old Mr. McEnery
was elected lieutenant governor of Louisiana,
and on the death of the governor,
L. A. Whitte, succeeded him as chief ex-
ecutive. He was associate justice of the
Supreme Court, serving twelve years.

In 1882 he was again a candidate for gov-
ernor, but was defeated by the anti-lit-
erary candidate. After a bitter fight and
a close election, Mr. McEnery was elected
United States Senator in 1896. Republi-
cans, Populists, and the Citizens' League
fought him, and he won by a scant six
votes. Senator McEnery's experience
gained at the Naval Academy fits him
for his place on the Naval Affairs Com-
mittee.

While the discussion over the amend-
ment to increase the salaries of the
Judges was in progress in the Senate,
Senator Scott submitted a statement
which he had received as to the living
expenses of a judge, as follows: One
man servant, \$30 a month; cook, \$20;
monthly house rent, \$50 a month; pre-
mium on \$20,000 life insurance, \$800;
and \$400 premium for fire insurance on library
and household fixtures. For four months
of the year he is away from home, his
expenses running \$6 a day. These items,
with provisions, etc., for \$5,460, leav-
ing about \$500 with which to educate his
children. Senator Bailey called attention
to the fact that the judge had left out
his laundry bill. Senator Scott com-
bated this, saying that he had left out that
he had a maid at \$1 a month, who
probably attends to that.

Representative Barthold, speaking in
opposition to the naval bill, stated that
sixteen years ago the navy cost about
\$22,000,000 annually. This year's ap-
propriation calls for \$125,000,000 and over.
During that period the population has in-
creased only 25 per cent, while naval ex-
penditures have increased over 600 per
cent, facts that emphasize the false
theory, at one time advanced by mon-
archs, that armaments and man-killing
machinery can alone vouchsafe security
and peace.

Within the last few years wonderful
changes have been wrought in the re-
lations of America with the outside world.
Arbitration treaties have been concluded
with twenty countries of America, Eu-
rope, and Asia. At that time, also, the
second Hague conference has relieved
America of responsibilities with regard
to the debts of Latin-American countries,
and an agreement has been entered into
with Japan, resulting in an understand-
ing between the United States and Uncle Sam.